

# THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF  
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA " THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL  
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VIII.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 2ND, 1929

No. 4

## Third Session of Sixth Alberta Legislature Opens



Wheat Pool Delegates  
Hold Important Sessions

# The Opening Ceremony in the Alberta Legislature

By NORMAN F. PRIESTLEY

Another opening of the Provincial Legislature of Alberta has passed into history. The scribe hastens to embody the scene in words before memory dims and its details fade.

Within the dome-crowned pile of buff colored sandstone, dugged from the quarries of the Bow Valley, whose architecture links us with heavy antiquity through the artistic genius of the Renaissance and the more chaste styles of Roman and Greek, a crowd of people thronged many of whom do not recall that but two decades ago there was removed from the site the log palisading and walls of a primitive fort, within which a handful of white men less than a generation before had done business with Cree and Stoney and Blackfoot from north and south of the big Saskatchewan. Attention for the moment focuses upon the scene inside.

When, at a few minutes to 3 o'clock on Thursday, January 31st, the sergeant-at-arms deposited the mace on the table of the Chamber, all members were in their seats though not in their usual places. The area of the Government desks on the right, and the groups of Liberal, Labor and Conservative desks on the left, were straightened into rows and pushed towards the sides of the chamber to make room for seats occupied by a galaxy of judges, lawyers, and other professional men, men of business and leisure, and their wives, quite a gathering of notables, with the fairer sex greatly in the majority.

The public galleries on either side, the speaker's gallery on the north and the press gallery on the south were filled with interested spectators of the ancient British ceremony.

Outside the chamber preparations were afoot for the first scene in the pageantry of state.

At the foot of the grand staircase, with its dark red ribbon of carpet running through the centre of its grey marble steps, were drawn up in two ranks two platoons of the Officers Training Corps of the University of Alberta, not the colorful lines of pre-war days, but four grim ranks of youth in khaki greatcoats, loose fitting, many shaded, web belted, their black fur caps and over-shoes distinguishing them but little from the soldiery of a dozen years ago. Overhead from the balconies of the dome hung the colors of many regiments brought back from the war. Immediately above the band of seventeen men was a banner carrying two hundred and twenty-five maple leaves, indicating the number of men and women of the civil service of Alberta who were involved in that conflict.

The doors of the building are flung wide. There is a sharp word of command. One hundred khaki clad figures snap heels together and slope arms. Mounting the entrance stairs appears a be-spurred officer in blue uniform, his identity submerged beneath a huge fur bushy. He is followed by the Lieutenant-Governor in a blue military greatcoat, wearing a white plumed cockade. Above the subdued whispering of the corridors there rings the command "present arms"; and, as the bayoneted rifles descend to

the accompaniment of three smart claps on the butt and stock, and rap upon the tiles, there blare forth the first three lines of God Save the King. The guard is brought back to "the slope"; and the Governor goes through their opened ranks on a brief tour of inspection, preceded and followed by officers of many ranks in various dress uniforms.

The official party mounts the grand staircase; and there is an interval of waiting while in an adjoining suite the new member for Medicine Hat is sworn in. Then comes the supreme moment of the year for the sergeant-at-arms of the Assembly, when he announces the vice-royal presence and the chamber rises to its feet; while the Governor, now resplendent in gold-braided uniform, marches down the aisle to the throne chair and is seated. The ponderous mace is taken from the table, lifted to the shoulder by the sergeant-at-arms, who mounts to a position near the royal seat, all the House standing while the Governor from a printed sheet, enclosed within a ribbon bound inscribed vellum, reads the "Speech from the Throne."

With the invocation of Divine blessing upon the proceedings the speech closes. The Governor rises, his aide having received the bulky leaves, and retires from the chamber. The mace is again deposited on the table of the Legislature. The assemblage is seated; and all is ready for the business of making laws "in the best interests of the general welfare and progress of the Province."

It is a colorful scene, undoubtedly something more than mere pageantry.

It is well that men should take time to be impressed with the dignity and responsibility of a high elective office.

The military accompaniments give the spectator, who cannot forget the war, much ground for reflection. It is strange that this high functioning of the human mind, these deliberations of men selected by the people for their wisdom to intelligently guide and control the great ends of state, should commence with a display of death dealing weapons, reminders of those grim horrors of a few years ago and of the yet ever present threat of war. Truly, it is hard to shake off "the dead hand of the past." Perhaps sometime some progressive state will find a way, and take it, whereby the greatness of days and men that are gone will be remembered; but whereby the pageantry that is necessary to visualize that greatness will have to do with life rather than death, with happiness rather than tragedy.

## A CHINESE STORY

A Chinese story tells how a very stingy man took a paltry sum of money to an artist, who always exacted payment in advance, and asked him to paint a portrait.

The artist at once complied with the request, but when the portrait was finished nothing was visible save the back of the sitter's head.

"What does this mean?" cried the sitter, indignantly.

"Well," replied the artist, "I thought a man who paid so little as you did wouldn't care to show his face!"—*Ari Journal*

## World-famed Authority on Co-operation to Speak on Radio on February 21st

Datum announced of Series of Lectures by Dr. J. P. Warshaw—Open to All People of Alberta Who Wish to Attend

Dr. James P. Warshaw, President of the Co-operative League of the United States, a member of the Central Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance, and author of "Co-operative Democracy," one of the most famous works on the philosophy of the co-operative movement, will deliver a series of lectures in Alberta from February 19th and 27th inclusive. All the lectures will be open to anyone interested, equally with the students at the University and the schools of agriculture, where the lectures will be held.

Particular attention is drawn to the radio lecture to be given by Dr. Warshaw from the University station, CKUA, at 9:15 p.m. on Thursday evening, February 21st. Readers who are unable to attend the lectures themselves, but have radio sets in their homes, will find it well worth while to listen in on the lecture by this famous leader in the co-operative movement.

### The Itinerary

Dr. Warshaw's itinerary is as follows:

Tuesday, February 19th, Afternoon—Vermilion Agricultural School.

Wednesday, February 20th, Morning—Vermilion Agricultural School.

Thursday, February 21st, Morning—University of Alberta.

Thursday, February 21st, Evening—Radio CKUA, University of Alberta, 9:15 p.m.

Friday, February 22nd, Afternoon—Olde Agricultural School.

Monday, February 25th, Morning—Clareholm Agricultural School.

Wednesday, February 27th, Afternoon—Raymond Agricultural School.

The dates for the lectures at Olde, Clareholm and Raymond are subject to change, though it is not anticipated that any change will be necessary. Farmers driving in from the country should telephone the principal at the school before leaving to be sure that there has been no change.



# Third Session of Sixth Alberta Legislature Opens—Speech From Throne Outlines Heavy Program

Old Age Pensions, Natural Resources, Amendment to School Law, Railways Legislation, Among Matters to Come Before Assembly

## STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

## Pomp and Ceremony Mark Opening Day

Little Change from Former Years—New Member Is Introduced

### THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Jan. 31.—Once again with due pomp and ceremony the representatives of the people of Alberta assembled in their council chamber have been welcomed to their duties by the appointed representative of His Majesty the King. His Honor Lieutenant Governor Egbert, after the usual survey of conditions in the Province and formal outline of the main items of legislation proposed by the Ministers of the Crown, left the members "to the business of the session with full confidence that they will faithfully discharge their duties and responsibilities in the best interests of the general welfare and progress of the Province."

The ceremony differed but little from that of previous years, the only unusual features being the formal introduction of the new member of the Legislature, Hector Lang of Medicine Hat; and the bringing into the rotunda of the guard of honor, on account of the sub-zero weather. Notwithstanding the cold there was the usual brilliant gathering of people of note on the floor of the Assembly, and the presence of galleries full of people interested in the occasion.

The formal presentation by Premier J. E. Brownlee of a bill to amend the Vehicle and Highways Traffic Act, followed by a motion that the speech from the throne be considered on Friday, also that the votes and proceedings of the House be printed and that standing committees be appointed, paved the way for a motion to adjourn till 3 o'clock of that day.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The Speech from the Throne follows:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It is with pleasure that I welcome you to the Third Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta.

The people of this Province have shared the anxiety of the peoples of the Empire during the recent serious illness of His Majesty King George the Fifth. They rejoice at the progress he has made towards recovery and earnestly trust that he will soon be restored to health and strength.

It is very gratifying to note the steady improvement in economic conditions throughout the Province generally. The

demand for labor has exceeded that of any previous year, while there has been a substantial development along industrial lines. The present indications are such as to warrant a confident belief in the continuation of sound and profitable expansion of industrial and mercantile undertakings, accompanied by an improvement in subsidiary businesses, trades and professions.

### Value of Farm Produce

Notwithstanding the serious damage occasioned by frost and the lower price level prevailing for our principal agricultural product, the produce of the farm for the past year is estimated to yield a sum \$30,000,000 in excess of the average return for the past decade. The Province's reputation as a country where high standard grain and stock can be produced has been enhanced by the continued success of Alberta exhibitors at the Toronto Royal Show and the Chicago International Show. The encouragement of the use of good seed, of the improvement in methods of cultivation and of the adoption of adequate methods of dealing with noxious weeds is being actively promoted by my Government.

The coal-mining industry of the Province continues to make substantial progress, the production of coal in 1928 exceeding that of any previous year. The endeavour to obtain the Ontario market for Alberta coal is now in the second of the three years during which coal may be moved west at the special rate. Last year initial difficulties were encountered which impeded the movement, and it was found that the time for shipments at the special rate was insufficient. With the extension of the shipping period and the removal of the first difficulties encountered, it is to be hoped that the efforts of the industry will be successful in winning and keeping a market in Ontario for Alberta coal.

The development of the oil fields of the Province indicates that this important activity has passed the experimental stage and is well on the way to becoming an established industry.

### Old Age Pensions

In accordance with the intimation given to this House during the last Session, my Ministers have enquired and considered the needs of the Province in the matter of Old Age Pensions, as well as the problems involved in farming and financing a scheme suited to the needs and circumstances of the Province and in conformity with the Old Age Pensions Act of the Dominion. A bill for the purpose of providing Old Age Pensions will be brought before you for your consideration.

As a result of negotiations conducted by my Ministers since the last session an agreement has been arrived at with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company whereby that company and the Canadian National Railways may become joint

purchasers of the railways now operated by the Government of the Province. This agreement is conditional upon its being ratified by this house, the Parliament of Canada, and the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Details of the agreement will be laid before you for consideration, together with the necessary legislation providing for its ratification and execution.

### Natural Resources

During the year negotiations for the transfer to the Province of its Natural Resources were continued by my Ministers and as a result new proposals have been made by the Government of Canada. These proposals will be submitted to you in detail at an early date for your consideration.

With a view to securing greater uniformity and fairness in the assessment of land throughout the Province, it is proposed to provide for the appointment of a Board which will have general control over assessments, will hear appeals, and will determine a fair assessment for Provincial purposes. A bill for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

Substantial progress was made during the year in carrying forward the Provincial highway program. At the close of the year gravel surfacing had been completed on approximately six hundred miles, while an additional six hundred miles had been constructed to standard grade. It is the opinion of my Ministers that the growing highway needs of the Province make necessary a revision of the existing classification of roads and highways and a bill will be submitted for your consideration providing for such re-classification. You will also be asked to make provision for an increased program of highway construction for the current year, and, for the purpose of meeting the increased expenditures required for such a program, you will be asked to consider a bill to increase the tax on the consumption of gasoline.

### Public Health

The public health of the community continues to receive the most careful attention of my Ministers, and among other activities it is proposed to supplement remedial measures by preventive and safeguarding methods, by making provision by which district health units may be established. A bill to amend The Public Health Act, containing the provisions necessary for the carrying out of these proposals, will be placed before you. The report of the commission appointed by my Government to inquire into the administration of the Mental Institutions of the Province will be submitted at an early date. You will be asked to make provision for the expansion of these institutions as well as for increased hospitalization facilities generally.

A bill for the purpose of amending and consolidating the school law of

the Province will be submitted for your consideration. Included in the bill are a number of proposals designed to improve the educational system of the Province, particularly in the rural areas.

#### Government Telephones

It is with particular satisfaction that I refer to the progress made by the Alberta Government Telephones. As a result of the operation of this utility, sufficient revenue was earned during the past year to make it unnecessary to have recourse to the subvention provided by statute, while full provision has been made for depreciation and maintenance reserve.

The improvement in general conditions and the consequent development of the Province, make probable the institution of many new urban centres and the substantial expansion of the centres now existing. There is a general realization of the necessity for the orderly, convenient and comely development of all such centres and for the development of the Province generally in such a manner as to preserve its natural beauty. A bill will be submitted containing provisions for this purpose, framed according to modern practice and ideals.

#### Northern Development

Under the authority conferred by The Natural Resources Research Act passed at the last session of this house, arrangements are being made by my Ministers for survey work to be carried on this year, which it is hoped will considerably advance the development of the northern part of the Province. This program will involve more intensive research into the problems presented by the bituminous sands, the determination of the salt resources, soil, timber and mineral surveys with a special survey into the water supply in certain districts adjacent to Peace River.

Realizing the inadequacy of The Companies Act of this Province to its commercial and industrial needs, my Ministers for some time past, have had under preparation a complete revision of the law affecting joint stock companies. A bill designed to meet present-day requirements will be submitted for your consideration.

A number of measures will be brought before you dealing with matters of general importance, and also for the purpose of amending existing statutes. Amongst them will be a bill to amend The Vehicles and Highway Traffic Act, providing for the registration and licensing of all drivers of motor vehicles.

The annual reports of the various Departments of the Government will be presented to the house in due course.

The public accounts of the last fiscal year, and the estimates for expenditure for the current fiscal year, will be submitted for your consideration. In the preparation of the estimates due regard has been had to the need for continued economy with respect to the public service and public works.

I leave you now to the business of the session, with full confidence that you will faithfully discharge your duties and responsibilities in the best interests of the general welfare and progress of the Province.

And I pray that Divine Providence will guide and bless your work.

A grain elevator and 5,000 barrel per day flour mill is to be built at Windsor, Ontario, by a private company, at a cost of \$3,040,000.

## Hennig and G. W. Smith Move Address in Reply to Speech

Members for Victoria and Red Deer Discuss Alberta's Problems

### FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 1.—Fort Saskatchewan and Red Deer supplied the two members of the Assembly who today, of behalf of the Government, moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne, in the persons of Rudolf Hennig of Victoria and G. W. Smith of Red Deer. Both speeches were ably delivered and dealt briefly with many important matters. Joseph T. Shaw (Liberal leader) adjourned the debate.

When Speaker George Johnston, of Coronation, read the prayers of the Assembly at a few minutes past three o'clock, Fred White, Labor member for East Calgary, was the only member at his desk on the side opposite the Government. Others filed in during the succeeding period while the Premier and his Ministers moved the first reading of some twenty-three bills.

On the orders of the day, the Premier and other Ministers laid on the table various annual reports, the Hon. George Headley announcing that some were not available owing to the changing of the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar. In this connection Joseph T. Shaw asked when the report of the investigation of Poncha Aerials would be brought down. Mr. Headley, replying, stated that it was not yet printed. C. Y. Weaver, (Cons.), Edmonton, asked how long the report had been in the hands of the Government, and was told in reply, "three days."

#### Hennig Moves Address

In moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne, Mr. Hennig expressed pleasure in the partial recovery of His Majesty the King; and hoped for his return to a full measure of health. He also extended congratulations to Hector Lacombe, newly elected member for Medicine Hat in succession to the late C. S. Pingle.

The member then referred to some outstanding cases of bravery and devotion to duty on the part of a number of Albertans during this winter. He also expressed gratification for the way in which the affairs of the Province had been handled during the past year. He held the conviction that the surplus of a little more than \$279,000 in public accounts was healthy and commendable, believing that larger surpluses would tend to make the taxpayer dissatisfied. He also commended the Premier and the Minister of Railways for the sale of the northern railway lines.

Mr. Hennig then dealt at some length with the proposals of the Minister of Education with respect to the reconstruction of the rural school system of the Province. While he believed that the system now in vogue had been useful in a pioneer country, he was of the opinion that the time had come for a forward move. It would eliminate local frictions. It would simplify the collection of taxes. It would raise the status of teachers and greatly increase efficiency.

He believed that it would perhaps lead ultimately to the solution of the problem of rural high schools; and that it would lead itself to adapting the

course of studies to the needs of particular areas.

The speaker deprecated the tendency to a too great standardization of education; and deplored the practice of pushing children through school at a too rapid rate. He believed that many children were by nature unfitted for advanced academic education. They should be given the opportunity to succeed along more practical lines.

#### Health Matters

Dealing with matters of health the member praised the work of the two travelling clinics, which in 1928 examined 10943 children and performed 1735 operations. He referred to the building of a dormitory at the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He dealt with the problem of weeds. He expressed pleasure at the progress of the Government telephone system; and then dwelt at some length on the road policy of the Minister of Public Works.

While agreeing that main roads are necessary, Mr. Hennig argued that farmers must have secondary and market roads to work and use the highways. He believed in a pay-as-you-go policy, and was convinced that maintenance was an important problem now confronting the Province. "It would be folly," said he, "to construct good roads and then allow them to go to ruin through lack of proper care."

Toward the close of his address the mover took a fling at the immigration question. He did not believe in coaxing Europeans into this country to become, as many must, victims of casual labor conditions. He would give prospective immigrants the full truth and nothing but the truth, let them come and make them welcome; but would "let them hoe their own row."

After a brief tribute to the work of the department of the Attorney General, with particular commendation of the branch devoted to neglected children, Mr. Hennig spoke approvingly of the prospect of Old Age Pensions; and suggested that a poll tax or a tax on all incomes would bring into active co-operation all who might benefit by the scheme.

In conclusion he would suggest the adoption of the slogan of the city of Edmonton slightly modified: "All together for Alberta."

It is not without significance that the only applause interrupting the flow of the address was elicited from the five Labor members present on the mention of the proposal to provide Old Age Pensions. A hearty round of applause succeeded the close of the speech.

#### G. W. Smith Responds

In seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, G. W. Smith of Red Deer extolled the beauty of his little city, spoke of its early settlement and increasing prosperity and invited the members of the Legislature to visit him and see for themselves. He cited a list of what were to him the most important items of legislation forecasted in the speech from the throne: ratification of the sale of the Provincial railways, the return of the natural resources, the new School Act, the Old Age Pensions Bill, the Town Planning Act, the increase of the gasoline tax, a practically new Highways Act, and a program of increased highway construction.

Mr. Smith complimented the Government on the sale of the railways and took occasion to remind the Assembly that one member of the opposition would have

given them away in the 1929-27 session. He had heard a good Conservative of his constituency say that the Province had profited so greatly in the matter that they could afford to give Premier Brownlee a life pension of \$50,000 a year. They would still be "ahead in the game."

The member believed that the Province was just entering an era of great development and it was opportune that the natural resources should be received at this time. He was pleased to note that a program of intensive research of the resources of the Province was to be undertaken. In this connection, Mr. Smith gave some comparative figures on the production of wheat, showing that Alberta alone had produced in 1927 enough to supply the whole of Canada with food and seed nearly twice over. With reference to the program of highway construction, Mr. Smith was of the opinion that the Province would ultimately come to the same policy as Nova Scotia and take over the whole responsibility for the maintenance of roads.

Mr. Smith commended the Government on its attention to Public Health and placed such services at the top of the scale of importance. Education, however, came a close second; and he was pleased to note that the recent U.F.A. Annual Convention had given its approval of the principle of the proposed new School Act.

In closing, the member for Red Deer gave a quotation of some length from the writings of a southern editor, the gist of which was that while any true and lasting civilization must be based upon material prosperity, men must have leisure to develop in themselves a love of the true, the beautiful and the good. Beauty is essential, Justice is needful. An educated people, a cultured people, with high ideals and noble aspirations, were necessary to rightly equip and develop, to possess and enjoy the vast wealth of beauty and resources with which the great Creator had so lavishly endowed this Province.

Before the motion to adjourn was put, Premier Brownlee suggested that the leaders of the other side canvass their members over the week end and ascertain how many wished to speak on the debate, also on the budget debate which would follow a few days later. The Assembly then adjourned till Monday afternoon.

## J. T. Shaw, Weaver and Pattinson Speak in Debate on Address

**Labour Member Takes Uncompromising  
Stand for Public Ownership of Power  
—Shaw Moves Amendment**

EDMONTON, Feb. 4.—Like a New Year's resolution, the forty minute rule which was passed by the Legislature last session, was tossed unceremoniously into what Joseph T. Shaw might describe as the limbo of forgotten things, on this, the very first day of debate. It happened so very suddenly that everybody was surprised. Colonel Weaver, after engaging the Government benches in critical mood for forty minutes, was drawn up short by Speaker Johnston, who reading the rule itself, promptly applied the guillotine. The Colonel, meeting this sudden Waterloo, sat down much embarrassed, amid the

evident amusement of the Government benches. Lusty Liberal reinforcements were rushed to his aid, and on the motion of J. T. Shaw, seconded by L. A. Giroux, the Assembly unanimously suspended the rule. Thus the precedent is set for ever and a day, and legislators breathe more freely knowing that rules as they devise them are only scraps of paper.

Mr. Joseph T. added the spice of life to the debate by the introduction of a Power amendment. This urged the necessity for a thorough, complete and competent investigation of the power resources of the Province, followed by recommendations as to the most efficient and economic means and method of development, distribution and utilization thereof, and asking further that until this report is presented there should be no alienation by way of lease, sale or otherwise of Provincial resources.

Chris. Pattinson (Labour), Edson, followed the Liberal leader. The claims of Labor were stressed, particularly the protection of the wages of workers in the coal and lumber industries.

Hon. George Headley, Minister of Agriculture and Health, spoke for some time and adjourned the debate. Nine non-contentious bills were given second reading.

On the orders of the day, George Webster, (Lib.) Calgary, asked the Minister of Health about a newspaper report stating that Herbert Greenfield had been wired by the Minister to secure a number of female doctors for the Province in England. Mr. Headley said the report was accurate in essence but erroneous in detail. Mr. Greenfield had been asked to find out if 4 or 5 female doctors could be secured for work in certain country areas of Alberta.

### Liberal Leader's Attack

Joseph T. Shaw, Liberal Leader, in opening the opposition attack, was on the whole, very moderate. Complimenting mover and seconder and paying tribute to his colleague from the West, he criticised the speech from the Throne as being no different from preceding years, insofar as general terms relative to prosperity in the past and a program of legislation for the future were concerned. It lacked one great essential, there was no policy outlined with regard to Power. This Province, he claimed, had failed to keep in step with other Provinces and he made the statement that we were not truly progressive if no provision was made for the adaptation of power to industrialization.

Mr. Shaw complimented the Government on falling into line with other parties on the question of Old Age Pensions; deplored the omission of any reference to redistribution; and hinted that the offer of the Dominion to purchase the Province was another good thing which had passed into the limbo of the forgotten.

There were four outstanding issues. First, the new offer with regard to the natural resources. The leader assuaged us to whether the differences with regard to the school clause had been ironed out, and expressed the view that the new offer was immeasurably superior to that preceding it.

The Northern Railways came next. Mr. Shaw refused to enthuse over the new proposals, even if the press of the Province uttered a general paean of praise. These same papers, he reminded the Assembly, had urged sale at any price, so he was wary of allowing himself to get enthusiastic over a proposal that

invited a loan of over twenty million dollars to the Province. Last year's statement had shown a fine operating profit, and he congratulated the C.P.R. for their keen appreciation of the value of the roads. He was grieved because he had hoped for co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the C.N.R. He contended that these roads had been built under faulty colonization activities, and because of that advocated the taking over of the lines by "the People's Railway." He had a tilt with the Premier, who queried if immigration policies would be better if carried out by the C.N.R. than by the C.P.R.

### Attacks New School Plan

Education provided a fine field for the Calgary member's rhetoric, or whatever it is. He wondered from what source the Minister had drawn his inspiration. Presumably it was his own thought. The fact that the U.F.A. had approved it didn't fare J.T.S. The U.F.A. had repented many many times in the past. He was glad, though, that the Minister realised the necessity for a change, as the Liberals had said so a year ago.

In this new fangled scheme there were no democratic principles. There were traces of bureaucracy and here and there of Sovietism. "How this hodge-podge of conflicting ideas could appeal to an Anglo-Saxon people in this twentieth century" was beyond him.

It did not dispense with the necessity of standardization of our educational system. The whole administrative machinery had become centralised in the Department, because the divisional boards would become rubber stamps to the supervisors. With regard to the general board, this was only an item of expense, as these functions could be performed by an operator with an adding machine. (Mr. Baker: "Can an adding machine set salaries?" Laughter.)

The next thing attacked was the claim that this new proposal would mean a fair distribution of the costs of rural education. Yet forty per cent of the people of Alberta were exempt from bearing their share, namely the urban centres. Teachers in the rural areas would receive better pay. This would react on the city, as schools in town would also have to increase wages to secure teachers.

Mr. Shaw did not like the word supervisors, and the districts were too unwieldy to be serviceable for any other variety of local government, such as health or colonization.

His suggestion was that a House Committee be appointed to go into the whole matter, and that the bill be not proceeded with at this session.

The Liberal Leader wound up with a survey of the Power question, believing that we stood on the threshold of a great industrial expansion. A survey had been suggested some years ago, but had not been carried out, or if carried out had been done in a very incomplete and fragmentary way. He wanted a competent survey by experts, in order that a sure foundation could be laid for future power enterprise. He then moved his amendment.

### Labour Member Speaks

Chris Pattinson, (Labour), Edson, paid the usual compliments, after which he deplored that the much heralded prosperity had not reached the workers in the mining areas, where the average wage did not exceed one hundred dollars a month. He hoped that in the general prosperity

the eight hour day would be adopted for workers. He claimed that profit would accrue instead of diminish. His argument was that with the speeding up of machine production the benefits of increased production should be social rather than private, especially when it was evident that the machine displaced so many workers. He wanted amendments to the mines act, especially with regard to the composition of the Board (one only) for the issue of miners' certificate. The act should be tightened up to protect wages, as in spite of last year's legislation there was still some delinquency.

The Labor party were jealous when claims were made as to who was responsible for old age pensions. That was their work now consummated. The age would have to be set at 65, and certain objectionable clauses removed before they would be satisfied.

If the Government received their natural resources, he hoped they would abolish closed camps in mine areas. He blamed the Federal Government, amid applause from Government benches, for failure to buy the northern railways for the C.N.R. He wanted highways, or at least roads, in the Edison Coal Branch, where 6,000 people had no road facilities.

The three day waiting period would have to be eliminated from the Workmen's Compensation Act. Labor could not see the logic of that, and the clause respecting hernia would require amendment. The average rate was unsatisfactory as many workers were unemployed part time, and there was no provision for partial unemployment.

The Labor member dealt also with wages in lumbering camps, where supplies and other things outweighed the remuneration. Not only that, but a worker had sometimes to travel to Edmonton to cash a pay cheque. He awaited the amendments to the Workmen's Lien Act to be introduced this session.

Mr. Pattinson concluded by coming right out for Public Ownership of Power. He reviewed the great struggle all over the world for possession of control.

#### G. T. Weaver

After expressing satisfaction at the reference in the reply to the speech from the throne, as moved by Mr. Hennig to the king's improved health, and a desire to include with that reference a wish for the return to health of the great Marshal Foch, C. Y. Weaver, (Cons.), Edmonton, concerned himself mainly with three topics not included in the previous speeches: Weeds, the use of foreign text books in the schools, and the offer of the Dominion Government to take over the duties of policing Alberta.

With reference to the power question he asked why the Government did not take into its full confidence both sides of the Assembly with respect to the Baxter report. He reminded the Government that their side of the Assembly represented less than 50 per cent of the people of the Province and urged that the rights of the other fifty should be recognized by making the full information available. He thought it was a good thing to have sold the northern railways, but would remind the Assembly that there was still a debt of some \$2,000 a day added upon the Province as a result of the railway policy of the late Liberal administration. He would urge the creation of a sinking fund to reduce the Provincial debt.

In connection with Old Age Pensions he would urge that ex-service men, whose

expectancy of life was lowered by the war, should be pensionable at sixty-five years of age.

Col. Weaver had been twitted as an armchair farmer; but he had much knowledge of rural conditions and was convinced that the weed menace was becoming very real, greater in fact each year. He quoted a statement to the effect that now thistles were like spots of leprosy all over the Province. He cited the condition of southern Manitoba, where once prosperous fertile districts were now almost deserted, schools closed, municipalities unable to raise taxes, men unable to raise money on mortgages of farm lands. He believed that the weed question was as important as the Wheat Pool, reduction of freight rates, etc.

#### U.S. Text Books

Coming to the matter of the use of foreign text books in the public schools, the speaker gave as an instance a history text entitled Medieval and Modern Times. This was published in the United States. It almost ignored Great Britain's part in the recent war, and made a reference, in about half a dozen words, to the work of the Canadian corps. There was a photo of Marshal Foch and of General Pershing and an allusion of some length to the achievements of the latter in other campaigns but there was no mention of French, Haig, Jellicoe, Beattie, Byng, Currie or Allenby. He was of the opinion that at least the great effort of our people of all ages and both sexes should not be ignored in a book read and studied by the youth of our schools. He had nothing against the American people. They imposed upon their people a 100 per cent Americanism. He did not believe that any Americanism either 100 per cent or 50 per cent or 25 per cent should be imposed upon the people of Canada through our school text books. History should be a true statement of fact not propaganda for a foreign country. Were there not writers in Canada who could compile our own text books? or could not a Canadian edition of an American or other foreign text be secured by the Minister of Education? Nothing should be allowed to undermine our national spirit and pride.

The greater portion of Mr. Weaver's speech was addressed to the subject of the constitution of the police of the Province. He made an eloquent plea for the acceptance of the offer of the Dominion Government to take over the work of the A.P.P. through the R.C.M.P. Covering much the same ground as was traversed last year in the debate on this subject, Mr. Weaver was checked up several times by Premier Brownlee for statements attributed to him which were incorrect. He also aroused a retort from the Premier when he made allusion to the idea that politics lay behind the desire of the Government to retain the Alberta Provincial Police. Mr. Brownlee asked the honorable member if that were the reason for the maintenance of a provincial force in all the other Provinces of Canada with the exception of Saskatchewan. In conclusion, Mr. Weaver gave many details of the Saskatchewan arrangement with the Dominion Government and pleaded that in the event of any change the men who had been encouraged to devote themselves to this work would not be thrown into unemployment without some such gratuity as was given by the Government of Saskatchewan, one month's pay for each year of service.

Each of the previous speakers of the day having taken a flue fling at the Minister of Health, the Hon. George

Headley rose shortly before the Assembly adjourned and gave some advance notice of the Government's intentions with respect to his Department.

Mr. Headley remarked that it had been his privilege to be a member of the Assembly for the past twenty sessions and he had never heard better speeches in reply to the speech from the throne than those given by Messrs. Hennig and G. W. Smith.

Coming directly to the attack on criticisms offered by members in the benches opposite, the Minister of Agriculture thought the reference by Col. Weaver to the high character of the Royal Mounted Police had inferentially reflected adversely upon the Alberta Provincial force. It was therefore unfortunate.

J. T. Shaw: "Has the Government refused the offer of the Dominion?"

Mr. Headley: That would be answered by those responsible. It was not in his Department.

#### State Medicine

Dealing with the subject of Health, Mr. Headley emphasized its importance. The Rockefeller Institute was prepared to undertake half the cost, if the Government and the municipalities concerned would each bear their share of the other half, to establish a health unit, say of some 2000 miles in the centre of the Province, with Red Deer as centre in which to carry out some advanced ideas with respect to public health. In this connection Mr. Headley very clearly intimated his leanings towards state medicine and hospitalization. There were large areas without adequate medical and surgical services. He saw no reason for alarm at the possibility of the panel system of doctors; there were already over fifty per cent of the doctors of Great Britain on the pay rolls of the state. He would say this, however, that state medicine does not become established in any country except and until the doctors make it necessary.

The sitting adjourned at six o'clock.

#### NOT TO BE KNOWN



Baron Power: My good man, don't you know that public ownership would ruin the country?

Henry Haywood: Oh, well, it hasn't ruined Ontario yet, or Sweden. I'm for taking a chance.

The above cartoon was sent in by a member of the Sylvan Lake U.F.A. Local, Mr. J. R. H. Tanche, as comment on the campaign of the power companies against public ownership.

# News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Loans Issued by the Publicity Department of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

## Vital Issues Dealt With at Wheat Pool Delegates Session

**New By-Laws and New Act Passed On—Continuous Contract Recommended—Name of Organization Is Changed**

The Alberta Wheat Pool delegates held a three day convention in Calgary, commencing on January 30th. This meeting was called to revise the Pool by-laws, consider a plan of re-distributing the Directors' and Delegates' divisions, and to go over a proposed bill to be presented to the present session of the Alberta Legislature.

The purpose of the proposed bill and the revision of the by-laws was to make changes in the Pool constitution which the experience of the past five years has shown to be necessary. The Wheat Pool was organized in a hurry in 1923 and without any precedent for a guide. The legal structure was built on anticipation of the Pool's needs and without adequate knowledge of what the needs would be.

One of the purposes of the proposed bill is to prevent the Pool being sniped at by disgruntled members who might be egged on by interests not too friendly to the Pool. The present situation leaves the Pool in too open a position and a ready target for attacks. If you sue a medical doctor for malpractice the suit must be started within six months from the time of the action complained of; if you fall on the city streets and decide to sue the corporation you have to give notice within 60 days and start suit within six months; if you have a grievance against a private grain company under the Canada Grain Act you have to start action within 18 months; but the Wheat Pool has been open to start legal action on incidents occurring six years ago.

### Keay Case Rectified

The proposed bill closes up this situation and limits the time within which action against the Pool may be started. The proposed bill is retroactive and, if passed by the Legislature, its provisions will take effect as from 1923 when the Pool was started. Exception was made in the present action of H. W. Keay, of Jenner, against the Pool, except in one instance, that is, where Keay demands his shares in Pool elevators. This proposed bill requires that all shares in Pool elevators be left in trust for the owner with the Pool.

The main purpose of this proposed bill is to place the control of the Wheat Pool in the hands of the delegates who are the direct representatives of the members. What these delegates decide upon will be legal and govern the Pool.

It was decided to exclude the Keay case from the operations of the proposed bill. H. W. Wood, Chairman of the Board of Directors, suggested that this case should be permitted to go on to the end. He said it might be possible that Keay's lawyers would get permission to go through the books of the Alberta Pool and Central Selling Agency. They might possibly find mistakes had been made, particularly in the earlier days of the Pool's history, but they would also find that these had been corrected and an improved organization steadily built up.

### Pool's Name Changed

The proposed bill provides for the changing of the name of the organization

from the Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited to Alberta Wheat Pool. It was with some regret that the delegates decided to delete "Co-operative" from the title, but it was realized that the name was unwieldy and little used. Everyone knows the organization as The Wheat Pool, and it was the general opinion that the change in name is well-advised.

### Investigate Flour Milling

A resolution was moved by J. K. Sutherland, seconded by E. A. Hanson, that the Board of Directors appoint a committee to work with the committee from the U.F.A. to investigate the flour milling industry in all its phases and report at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Sutherland said the time was ripe for this investigation. Mr. Hanson said the Pool should go as far as to sell bread to consumers.

Andrew Rahn opposed, saying a small mill for experimental purposes would be all right, but if the Pool went into the flour milling business a large mill would have to be built to compete with private mills. Mr. Rahn was formerly a flour miller in the old country and he said old country millers do not want our flour, but want our wheat to mix with their softer wheats for flour making purposes.

Col. Robinson suggested that the Wholesale Consumers Co-operative organization being started would be the logical one to develop a flour milling industry.

H. W. Wood said the large foreign flour mills are the Wheat Pool's best customers and he thought it unwise for the Pool to go into the flour milling business, which is highly competitive.

"We have a big job to handle now with our Wheat Pool and it requires all our ability and attention," he said.

The motion was carried on the understanding that it was information the delegates sought. Mr. Sutherland said the possession of a flour mill in a crop year like the present would give the growers a correct idea as to the true value of their wheat.

### Redistribution

The Directors' plan for redistribution was carried. A map of the Province showing the new districts will be printed in an early issue of *The U.F.A.* There

were no serious objections taken to the plan as brought in. The districts will contain the following acreages:

Lethbridge district.....	899,046
Charleholm district.....	557,836
South Calgary district.....	547,308
North Calgary district.....	583,721
Red Deer district.....	532,979
Camrose district.....	537,799
Edmonton district.....	552,596

The present delegates will hold their present districts. The new plan will come into effect when the annual delegates' election is held next spring.

There was some discussion over a motion to increase the Directors' fees from \$15 a day and travelling expenses to \$20 a day and travelling expenses. It was decided that this motion could not be considered at a special meeting, but only at the annual meetings.

### Keay's Claim Explained

M. M. Porter, solicitor for the Alberta Wheat Pool, gave an explanation of the statement of claim in the Keay case and explained fully the details of the case and the Pool's attitude. In reply to a question he said the Pool could have asked for legislation to nullify this case, but the Board of Directors decided against such a policy, but to fight the case in the courts to a finish. Mr. Porter said in reply to another question, that Mr. Keay's interest in the Commercial and Elevator Reserves totalled about \$280.00. Keay had delivered 7000 bushels of wheat since joining the Pool in 1924.

A delegate raised the question as to why names of first series members who had not signed second series contracts were included in the voting lists sent out in the by-elections. The secretary pointed out that under the present regulations these members were entitled to vote. This will not be the case when the new by-laws are adopted.

### Against Elevator Cleaning

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Kaehele in favor of cleaning grain in Pool elevators. Carl Axelsson moved that the delegates go on record in favor of cleaning all grain on the farm. This was carried.

J. K. Sutherland moved that the Board investigate the question of an elevator bin book. Mr. Axelsson suggested that this was a matter for the local shipping associations to handle. The mover said this method would be satisfactory to him. The resolution was carried.

### Continuous Contract Passed

A very important resolution providing for a continuous contract at the expiration of the present second series contract was introduced by Rufus Cates and seconded by Carl Axelsson. Mr. Cates said hundreds of members had not signed at the expiration of the first series contract because of sheer neglect. A lot of time and expense would be saved by a continuous contract with withdrawal privilege at stated intervals. The motion carried and also a subsequent motion by Mr. Biggs and Mr. Wainwright that the delegates go on record as favoring a two months' withdrawal period every five years. The delegates had heard Manitoba Pool has



such a contract and would like to see Saskatchewan Pool do likewise.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the problem of dealing with assignments and the wheat of members under lien or seizure. The matter was finally referred to the Board of Directors to bring in a recommendation after consultation with department heads.

On motion of Mr. Klags and Mr. Johansen the per diem and allowance of delegates was fixed on the following basis: \$8.00 a day while necessarily absent from home, and actual railway transportation plus berths or 15c a mile necessarily travelled by car or team, provided that where the delegate motored the entire distance his mileage should not exceed the regular return railway fare.

Carl Axelsson suggested that The U.F.A. newspaper should print a verbatim report of the discussion on the resolution respecting the Grain Commissioners at the Annual U.F.A. Convention. It was finally decided to ask J. Jesse Strang to arrange with the editor of The U.F.A. to have special publicity given to this discussion.

The revision of the by-laws of the Pool was then considered. A. Mackel Shulair, K.C., reading and explaining the various clauses to the delegates. The new by-laws as adopted will be printed and available to the membership within a short time.

#### Educational Suggestions

The following resolution was moved by Carl Axelsson and seconded by T. Partridge:

Whereas successful co-operative marketing of wheat or other products depends on the following of sound economic principles and an educational propaganda that clearly sets forth the farmers' needs and aims;

Therefore be it resolved that the Alberta Wheat Pool must adopt an aggressive policy in the interests of the farmers and co-operative economics as a basis and ground of all dealings, and in the educational propaganda set forth that the farmers farm the land, but that others farm the farmers, by pointing out clearly how the farmers are exploited, and to advise them that the solution of their difficulties lies in organizing strong enough to take control of their own affairs, but that complete control and freedom can be secured only by doing away with the present competitive system and in place thereof establishing a co-operative system of production and exchange to be administered under farmers' and workers' control.

This motion was lost.

The question of non-Pool farmers delivering wheat to Pool elevators was considered, and Mr. Burton and Mr. Cates spoke on the question. Mr. Cates moved, seconded by Col. Fohlsom, that this matter be referred to the board of directors with instructions to make provision so that non-Pool farmers may not profit in any way through the distribution of surplus earnings.

The session lasted three days, until the evening of Friday, February 1. Rufus Cates and J. A. Johansen were the chairmen. Committees were: Order of business—T. Partridge, A. W. Fraser, E. H. Keith. Resolutions—Robert Burton, Johnston Ferguson, J. Frey.

#### BROOKHALL GIVES WHEAT POOL CREDIT

George Brookhall's *Corn Trade News*, January 15th, 1928—The upturn of prices in the early part of last week was chiefly due to the firmness of the Canadian Pool and the good buying of European importers, but the continued big takings, with further active buying, of Eastern lands are undoubtedly affecting the sentiment of the market—to say the least, they have a steadying influence. The successful stand of the Canadian Pool, when the market appeared to be well on the way to a lower price level, has naturally directed the attention of the market to this great selling organization in a very special degree. We think market developments showed that when backed by good finance, the seller can await opportunity better than the buyer. And the Pool's success in the struggle gave a hint of what might happen if two or more leading exporters had a close agreement on selling limits. Such an agreement would make no fundamental change with regard to supplies, and it might not check the demand unless pushed to extremes.

#### Foremost Elevator Leading

The Pool elevator at Foremost is now the leading elevator among the 312 operated in Alberta. The handlings of this elevator totalled 327,000 bushels at the beginning of the month, thus forging ahead of Provost which previously was the leading Pool house. Foremost is in the southern part of Alberta. This elevator was built in the spring of 1926 and Stanley Blackman is the local operator.

372,000 for 1926-27, and for 1927-28 to \$1,420,791.96, the amount now being distributed.

#### BAHUK AT BELLIS

A. D. Bahuk was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Bellis Wheat Pool Local, held in Bellis Hall on January 20th. Over 75 farmers with their wives and children were present. Peter Koloski the school teacher with his orchestra of 25 children was also present. The hall was very cold as it was 50 below, but the farmers and their wives remained until the meeting adjourned. After Mr. Bahuk's address considerable discussion took place. The feeling of the meeting was that there must be a 100 per cent Pool in the district in a very short time. The election of officers for the ensuing year took place at this meeting. It was decided at the next meeting of the executive to appoint members in each township to take care of the farmers who have not already signed the Pool contract and that an effort should be made to get these non-members to attend meetings. The meeting went on record as approving broadcasts in Ukrainian and expressed their pleasure at Mr. Bahuk's address recently given over the radio in the Ukrainian language.

A resolution was passed that the Wheat Pool should make provision to establish a Pool elevator at Bellis, either by purchasing an old house from one of the line companies or by building a new one.

Another resolution was passed to raise the salaries of the two school teachers at Bellis for their work of teaching co-operation after the regular school hours. It was also decided to ask the Pool Head Office to furnish more Pool news to the *Farmer's Life of Winnipeg*, which is a Ukrainian publication in sympathy with co-operative ideals.

A debate in Ukrainian is to be held shortly: "Resolved that the Wheat Pool should get 100 per cent control of the wheat market in Canada for the benefit of Canadian farmers."

#### ENDORSE U.F.A. RESOLUTION

At the Wheat Pool meeting held at the Lopatuk School, on January 23rd, the members unanimously endorsed the resolution which was passed at the U.F.A. Convention in regard to the Board of Grain Commissioners.

#### VISITORS AT POOL OFFICE

Monday, February 4th, a little group of visitors from the Kallik, Fleet and

## Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Distribute Annual Dividends

Cheques are being distributed by Saskatchewan Pool Elevators, Limited, to Wheat Pool members, returning to each his proportionate share of the surplus earnings of the Saskatchewan Pool Elevator system for the crop year 1927-28. At the annual meeting of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Delegates held in Regina last November it was decided that these be distributed to the growers in cash. The total amount of the earnings available for distribution from last year's operations is \$1,420,791.96. The payment is being made on the basis of 1 1/2c per bushel for grain delivered through Pool country elevators and 1c per bushel for grain delivered to Pool terminals over the platform.

This payment is another concrete example of the actual savings which are being made through co-operative endeavour by the Saskatchewan farmer. All this saving would have been lost as far as the producer is concerned, if Pool members were not in possession of their own elevator facilities. The cheques were prepared from the form 42 which lists all the deliveries of a Grower and in some cases deliveries from more than one point. Consequently some cheques are sent to stations covering deliveries at other points and also covering platform deliveries. All the cheques are being forwarded to Pool elevator agents who will notify the Growers to call for same if convenient, and if not, the cheques are being mailed by the agent direct to the Grower.

This is the third payment in cash covering the excess charges refund which has been made to Pool members. The amount of the surplus earnings of the Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Limited during 1925-26 was returned to Growers in February, 1927, and amounted to over \$470,000. This figure jumped to \$1,

Gadsby district, called at the Wheat Pool head office in Calgary and were taken through the various departments. Their names are as follows: Bronck Bros., R. Mayer, A. U. Doan, of Kalkirk; Les. B. Kemp, Bert Griffiths, A. F. Wetters, of Fleet; John W. Horton, of Gadsby; and W. Boyd, of Fessenden.

#### AT SPEEDEN LOCAL

A. D. Nabink addressed a Wheat Pool Local meeting held at Speeden on Monday, January 28th. Thirty Pool members were present and many questions

were brought up for discussion and satisfactorily answered. After the discussion the members re-elected their officers for their Local as follows: Secretary, Tom Lewicki; president, Dmytro Lewicki; vice-president, Mathew Hapchan; directors, John Pacholek; Alex Matwychuk and Fred Shewchuk. Four wheat contracts and three coarse grains contracts were signed.

The members informed the field man that much of their wheat was diverted to Vilna and Ashmont on account of getting better treatment at those points and for this reason they would like to have the Pool elevator at Speeden rather than at

Ashmont. At a previous meeting which was addressed by L. Normandeau, Wheat Pool field service man, a resolution was framed at this point in connection with this matter. The meeting decided to again submit this resolution to head office.

A recent survey of Canadian industries shows 6,500 groups of articles fully or partially manufactured in the Dominion, while approximately 1,600 Canadian firms or corporations are active exporters.

Traffic through the canal systems of Canada in 1928 totalled 18,719,723 tons, an increase of 1,231,412 tons over 1927.

## NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Activities of U.F.A. Local and District Associations and Information from Central Office—Notes on Co-operation

#### MAYWOOD OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of Maywood U.F.A. Local, James Wall was elected president, G. M. Berg vice-president, and E. J. Irvin was re-elected secretary. "We had invited the ladies to come out and either organize a U.F.W.A. or join the U.F.A.," writes Mr. Irvin, "but it was a stormy day and only two came out. They decided to go to the next community dance and do their own organizing. Mrs. Christie of Strathcona and E. E. Sparks, M.L.A., addressed a joint meeting some time ago."

#### THE VALLEY TO MUNSON

The annual meeting of the Big Valley to Munson U.F.A. District Association, held in Morris on January 10th, was well attended, although sickness in the district prevented some from being present.

Mr. Thompson, who was judging grain at the local seed fair held on the same day, gave an address, commending the district very highly on the quality of the grain samples shown, stating that they were equal to the best he had seen at some of the larger centres. P. J. Rock, president of the local Seed Growers, then announced the awards made at the fair.

#### Dues Increased Dues

A resolution was passed recommending that fees to Central Office should be set at \$3.50, those supporting the resolution urging the great value of the U.F.A. to the farmers, and the need of funds at Central Office to carry on. After some interesting discussion, a resolution dealing with Pool wheat handled by line elevators, was referred to the Wheat Pool.

Another, dealing with the route of the proposed wheat belt highway, was brought up; those present favored a route north from Munson Junction to the present main highway, then due east to connect with the highway already located and partly constructed.

Resolutions for the Annual Convention were then considered and discussed, as far as time allowed.

When the convention adjourned for supper, the ladies of the U.F.W.A. provided a splendid lunch and were later accorded a hearty vote of thanks "for the entertainment and service rendered."

Mr. Farnsworth was elected president by acclamation; the vice-presidents are Mrs. E. J. Garland and Mrs. W. H. Baldwin; while A. J. Russell is again secretary of the association.

#### THE ART OF LIFE

By C. E. N. JOAD

Civilized man spends rather more than two-thirds of his waking life in obtaining the means of make life possible; he has only one-third left for living. As a consequence, he is a shocking bungler in the art of life through sheer lack of practice. He does not realize this, assuming that the art of how to live rightly is instinctive. This belief is a delusion.

#### STICKING TO PRINCIPLES

(Ottawa Column)

The member of Parliament from East Calgary is Mr. H. B. Adshhead who sits and votes with the United Farmers of Alberta group. This body may be considered as the residuary legatee of the old agrarians who, before the war, united in the most drastic declarations for lower tariff that have ever been made in Canadian politics.

As every one knows, there is a butter question. Imports from Australia have excited apprehension which is not overcome even by authoritative declarations that the Canadian dairy business is in better shape than ever before in its history. Some members of the U.F.A. have been led to believe that protection should be afforded for the production of butter, and Mr. Adshhead has been found back with for not responding to the call. Speaking to the East Calgary Local

a month or so ago, as reported in the current U.F.A. official organ, he said:

If you should want me to go to Ottawa and vote and speak for low tariff because the tariff is wrong in principle, and to vote for a tariff on butter, I am afraid you would make my position an inconsistent one.

Well, yes, come to think of it, perhaps that may be so.

But, think of it further, and the position is far worse than one of mere academic inconsistency. Suppose Adshhead, M.P., were to ask for a butter tariff, what would happen about the others who are asking for protection on the specialties of production in their several constituencies? Of course, they would invite Mr. Adshhead to join them in putting over the whole schedule. If he refused to join, what chance would the butter tariff have of getting through? If he agreed to join then East Calgary would find itself represented by a log-roller just as East Calgary believes so many of these grasping constituencies of the East are represented today. And, unless Mr. Adshhead is more adept in that line of endeavor than many of his friends believe him to be, the result would very likely be that other duties would be raised and the butter duty, most unfortunately and most unexpectedly, would be left for "next session."

The farmers of the West are clever people. They have proved it. But their cleverness shows mainly in their sticking to principle and not entering into any arrangements for heating the log-rollers of their own game.

## Authorization Forms Now Being Mailed to Local and District Secretaries

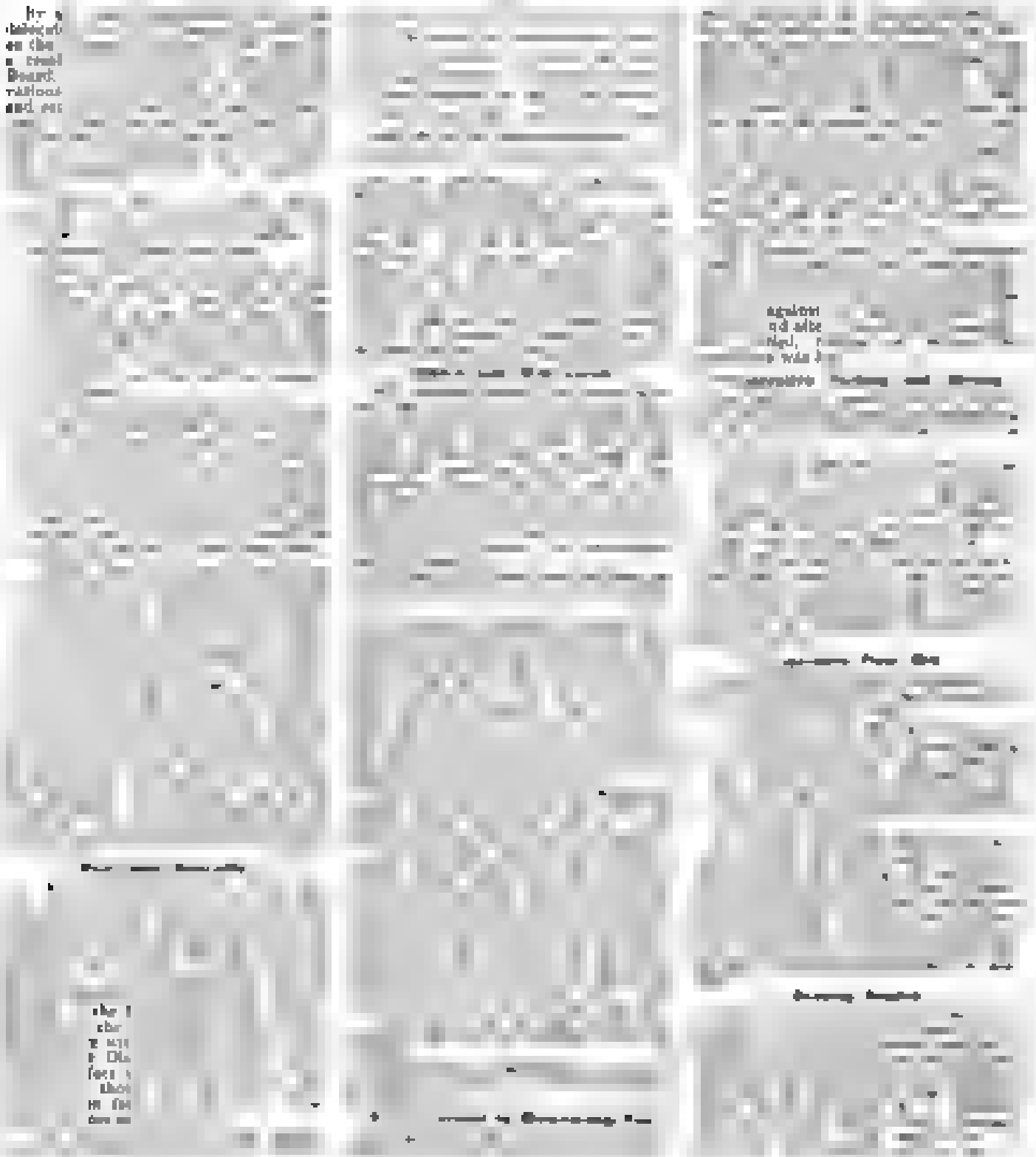
Early Return of Forms, Fully Filled Out, Is Requested by U.F.A. Central Executive

In furtherance of the U.F.A. membership campaign throughout the Province planned by the Central Board and Executive, authorization forms on the various Pools for the payment of membership dues are now being sent out from the U.F.A. Central Office. Supplies will probably be in the hands of Local secretaries, and the secretaries of Federal and Provincial Constituency and District Associations, by the time this issue reaches our readers. Secretaries are requested to have these forms filled out at the earliest possible moment, and returned to Central Office. The officers of all Constituency and District Associations are also requested to give all assistance possible in this matter.

News of the membership campaign will be published in future issues of *The U.F.A.*

# U.F.A. Annual Convention Debates Many Problems of Agriculture and of Province and Nation

Board discussed in Arrangements for Following Session of 1934-35 and also in the Matter of the U.F.A. Policy on the Immigration Policy of the Government. The Board also discussed the U.F.A. Policy on the Immigration Policy of the Government. The Board also discussed the U.F.A. Policy on the Immigration Policy of the Government.



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lubricant were used. It was stated in the course of the discussion that what might be suitable in one part of the Province might not do in another.

By unanimous vote the Convention adopted the following resolution from Camrose Federal C. A.:

Whereas, large sums are now being spent on immigration schemes which are largely futile, while Canada is losing her native population largely through economic causes and preventable mortality;

Therefore be it resolved, that we urge:

1. That a portion of the money now being expended on immigration be used in the extension of such healthactivities as will make impossible the appalling and disgraceful child and mother mortality rate of the Dominion.

2. That we endorse the recommendation of the committee on immigration and colonisation, asking that the same aid be extended to Canadians by the Canadian Government as is now extended by the Canadian Government to British immigrant boys.

3. That we protest most strongly against misrepresentations of conditions in Canada by the railways and other immigration agencies, and urge that the Federal Government be responsible for all immigration activities.

#### Chance for Canadian Boys

H. McKenzie, who moved the resolution, said that it must be generally agreed that Canadian boys should be given the same opportunities as were given to immigrants. He cited from his own knowledge cases in which those interested in promoting immigration sought to give an exaggerated account of prospects in Canada, in order to induce people in the old country and elsewhere to migrate and thus provide revenue for transportation companies and other concerns.

A. Henry, of Delburne Local, said that the character of advertising which he had seen in the old country press had been such as to make the reader imagine that in Canada dollars grew on trees. Immigration meant cheap labor, but it cost the immigrant as much to live in Canada as it did those who were settled in the country.

#### Must Unite Forces

Supporting the resolution, Mr. Axelson pointed out that the Convention was appealing to a Government at Ottawa that was not in sympathy with them or concerned in their interests. To obtain the settlement policy which they desired "we as farmers must first have intelligent political opinion and must band ourselves together with other farmers of Canada to protect our interests," he said.

Another delegate remarked that thousands of Canadian boys were leaving the country, and the attempt was being made after they had had to leave, to fill their places by immigration. Let those who wished to come to this country do so on their own account, and let Canada abandon attempts to stimulate immigration artificially, was the gist of this delegate's argument.

At this point another attempt was made to impose a limit upon debate, a motion from the floor of the Convention to limit the mover of a resolution to 7 minutes and others to 5 minutes being voted down by a large majority. J. K. Sutherland of the Executive, was among those who opposed the resolution. He said that time might actually be lost if the closure were used, owing to difficulties which

might arise at some periods in debate, which would require adjustment.

#### Better Than Immigration

The second resolution on immigration adopted by the Convention came from Bow Valley Provincial C. A. and was as follows:

As the immigration policy as at present conducted is not in the best interest of Canada, and will benefit chiefly the big transportation companies and a few land speculators and manufacturers, and

Whereas, mass immigration tends to lower the standard of living for the working class and to drive the farmers into cities or out of the country, and

Whereas, we have a great number of farmer boys and other citizens in villages and towns who have been or are working for farmers and thereby have practical knowledge of farming in Western Canada who would like to secure a farm of their own but lack the necessary capital to start farming;

Be it therefore resolved, that we ask the Dominion Government to discontinue the present immigration policy and instead set apart sufficient moneys to loan to our own citizens at a low rate of interest, and on long terms, so as to enable them to secure farms of their own, thereby keeping our own citizens here and making more employment for immigrants who come to Canada on their own initiative, those being the only immigrants who are desirable.

The mover, a delegate from Wheatlands Local, said that his family were old pioneers, and all had had to leave the country to seek opportunities elsewhere. The best immigration policy was to assure good conditions for Canadians.

#### A Danish-Canadian View

Remarking, "I was an immigrant myself once," Andrew Ehn said he heartily agreed with the resolution, not only as a U. F. A. man, but as a foreign-born Canadian. The people of Denmark, from whence he came, were also in agreement with the policy set forth in this resolution.

"Does not charity begin at home?" asked M. R. Hodder, of Vimy Ridge Local, who added that every Province except those of the West had lost rural population, and that Alberta's had only increased by 3 per cent in six years.

An amendment in the form of an addition to the resolution was lost. It read: "And be it further resolved that we spend a portion of this money in an endeavor to bring back to Canada her native population that has gone into the U. S., by making industry more attractive, assistance being given to help them to settle on the land."

Objecting to this proposal, a delegate said that Canada should not spend money trying to get people into the country. "You can't pull the wool over the eyes of a former Canadian," he remarked.

#### Against Settlement in Communities

One of the most interesting discussions of the day took place on a resolution which was adopted by a large majority:

That we recommend to the Federal Government that they discourage the settlement of the people of any country in large communities.

This was substituted for a resolution from the Perrywater Local, which viewed with "alarm the over-increasing number of Doukhobors entering the Dominion," and expressed unalterable opposition to

the further immigration of "Doukhobors and other Europeans of communal views as this class of people are of no value to community life, and do not offer a good prospect of becoming good Canadian citizens."

Speaking on the original resolution, Jas. Porter, of Courich, quoted the motto "Equal Rights for All; Special Privileges to None," and said that the granting of concessions to communities was a violation of this principle.

#### Axelson Thinks Inconsistent

Carl Axelson recalled the enthusiasm with which delegates had responded to an appeal of the previous evening for the advancement of the ideals of international co-operation, and said that the proposal to exclude one single class of people—the Doukhobors—seemed a little inconsistent. "From the standpoint of the tillers of the soil," said he, "you and I have got to take off our hats to the Doukhobors." He said that in order to realize the aims of the international co-operative movement it was essential to co-operate with all—with people of every nationality, with Doukhobors, Chinese, Japanese, as well as with others.

Col. Robinson, in moving the substitute motion, agreed that it was undesirable to single out any one people and discriminate against them. He was opposed to any kind of exclusive community—as much against such a community of British people as any others.

#### Thinks Language the Real Problem

John Kager, Sullivan Lake Local, thought that there would be no danger in large communities if the differences of language could be overcome. As a foreign born Canadian he agreed that all who came to this country should learn the language of the country. Should such a policy be followed, the exclusiveness of people who settled in colonies would disappear, and they would, through reading and converse with others, enter into the general life of Canada.

Mr. Axelson asked why certain groups of people lived in colonies, and answered the question by saying that it was "simply because you have not convinced them that your way of life is better."

#### Unchanged in 400 Years

Norman F. Priestley, Coaldale Local, said that the customs and general way of life found in some communities had not changed in 400 years, and continued to speak the language of their ancestors of 400 years ago. A way of life was imposed upon them by rule. There were communities of which the members did not know what it was to admire a flower, and had almost no culture. For those reasons, because if allowed to maintain their communal exclusiveness, such peoples would make no progress, he was opposed to any further community settlements being permitted in Canada.

Upon the vote being taken, on the substitute motion, only a few adverse votes were recorded.

At this point Mr. Scholefield read a letter, extending fraternal greetings, from the Ukrainian Labor-Farmer Temple Association.

#### Interest on P. O. Savings Accounts

The Convention adopted a resolution from Battle River Federal Constituency, asking that "the interest rate on post office savings accounts be raised to 4 per cent, thus helping the small investor, and also being a means of procuring money for the Government at low cost."

A resolution urging that the salaries of

those engaged in scientific and technical research in the employ of the Federal Government, which are now inadequate to retain many capable persons in the civil service, be suitably increased, and that those in technical positions in the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa be placed on a parity with technical men in other departments, was adopted. This resolution originated in the U.F.A. Conference on Federal affairs held in Calgary last summer.

The Convention unanimously requested the U.F.A. group "to do all in its power to further legislation for the prevention of watered stock in capital companies."

#### Homesteads for Women

"Any time a woman has courage enough to take up a homestead she is entitled to the privilege," was the way in which W. A. Childs, of Iron Springs, summed up the situation when a resolution asking "that women should be permitted to file on homesteads subject to the same regulations affecting men," was brought before the delegates. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

#### Election of President

At 12 noon Mr. Gardiner took the chair and called for nominations for President. C. Axelson nominated Mr. Wood as "Honorary President," and the motion was seconded, when the chairman pointed out that there being no provision for such an office the motion was out of order. Thereupon, Mr. Axelson submitted that the motion might be taken as a Constitutional amendment, and this was allowed.

Then James Miller of Floral Local, among delegates who rose simultaneously from various parts of the hall, was the one who caught the chairman's eye and moved "an amendment," that Mr. Wood be nominated as President. The motion was seconded from several quarters. A. Hendry nominated G. H. Biggs for the office, but Mr. Biggs immediately withdrew his name. It was moved and seconded that nominations close.

After waiting several minutes, in order that there might be opportunity for any other nominations, the chairman took a vote on the motion that nominations close, which was carried.

Reference was then made by the chairman to the peculiar situation facing the Convention, for which the rules of order did not provide. This situation having arisen, he felt it desirable to leave it to the Convention to decide whether they would create the position of Honorary President. Mr. Axelson remarked that his reason for making the proposal was that he felt that President Wood, holding as he did the highest position in the Alberta Wheat Pool, this work required one hundred per cent of his time. The delegates referred to the fact that the President had taken only \$310.33 from the U.F.A. for his services last year, and thought it desirable to have a President at \$4,000 a year to concentrate on the U.F.A.

A voice from the floor asked what the office of Honorary President would involve, the chairman answering that a man who held such an office was a figurehead. Mr. Axelson then said that the plan he proposed was intended as "the most polite way in which you can retire any person."

Mr. Miller declared amid loud cheers "Mr. Wood is the best man who has ever been President of the U.F.A., and we are quite well content with his services at the present time."

Then the chairman called for a vote on the amendment, which was carried with much enthusiasm, and it was noted

that there were only three or four opposing votes. The amended resolution was put and carried, with about the same number opposing.

#### President Wood Speaks

As President Wood came to the platform, he was greeted with general cheers.

"I get one satisfaction out of this proceeding, at least," he said smiling, "I believe this is the fourteenth time I have been elected (applause). But I have had a new experience in the method of election. It is unique, and I presume logical. Anyhow, it is unique."

"Now I cannot say that I am especially pleased at being elected President. The fact of the business is there was a good deal more logic in some of the things Mr. Axelson said than I have heard in some of the speeches he has made at other times. I have got plenty of work to do in a position where I am supposed to work and deliver the goods. The one reason that I accept this position is because I believe—and if I didn't believe this I would not accept it—I believe that you have done this with the one idea in your mind of doing the best thing for the organization. (Hear, Hear). Now, when you can relieve me of this responsibility on exactly the same ground, I will be just as pleased as Mr. Axelson."

"What was the remuneration that I have received this time, Mr. Axelson? (Mr. Axelson: \$300.) Well, I think perhaps I have earned it; but I think you have paid me—I am satisfied with the remuneration. So if you are satisfied I am satisfied. I don't know whether it will be that much this year or not, but I am going to give you the best service I can under the circumstances. And that doesn't mean that I am going to do much running around over the Province talking to you."

#### Much Talk Not Needed

"Your job requires work and you are the people that have to do that work. And you don't need much of my talk or much of anybody else's; though I would like to visit your Locals and your constituency meetings and confer with you on matters of importance very much more than I will be able to do. I will do the best I can."

"Now I sat here last night and listened to that magnificent address of—to be perfectly safe I will say one of the most magnificent women living, Mrs. Parfky. And I thought, if she would just wind up that address in regard to the magnificent efforts in Denmark with this statement: 'The farmers of Alberta through the machinery of their organization, can do just as much and more than Denmark has done,' she would have made the best address that was ever made to the farmers of Alberta in their history. (Cheers)."

"Ladies and gentlemen, that is what you can do. That can be done; you can do it. The Government cannot do it, the Wheat Pool cannot do it; but the members of the Locals of the United Farmers of Alberta can do it. The work is before you. Now the unfortunate position that I am in in regard to the U.F.A. is that I have got a working job myself—not a talking job, but a working job. And I don't think there is a job on the American continent where there is more involved than there is in the working job that I hold. (Hear, Hear). Now in the interests of the organized farmers of Alberta, of Western Canada, and the world, I am going to make the best contribution to that job that I can, and I am going to do the best I can in the

position to which you have elected me. I am going to do the best I can under the circumstances. And I want to repeat that when you can elect my successor in the best interests of this organization, I will be as well pleased as any man in this organization, not excepting again Mr. Axelson. Thank you." (Applause).

#### Vice-President Re-elected

At the opening of the afternoon session, Mr. Gardiner, from the chair, called for nominations for the office of Vice-President. The names of Mr. Scholesfield and Mr. Aitken were placed in nomination from the body of the auditorium.

Mr. Aitken immediately withdrew, stating that he appreciated the honor very much, but that having worked on the Board with Mr. Scholesfield, he did not believe it would be in the interests of the Association to make any change in the Vice-Presidency. He did not know of anyone who could handle the position more efficiently than Mr. Scholesfield had been handling it.

Upon being declared elected by acclamation, Mr. Scholesfield was received with cheers. He expressed himself as deeply conscious of the signal honor that had been conferred upon him. It was not only an honor; it was a command to serve to the Association. He would endeavor at all times to give the utmost service possible to the Association "that we are all planning for, and all love and believe in, and I hope that I shall be able to give better service than I have before. I may say that that service will have the help of our revered President, and I am sure it will have in the future, as it has in the past, the guidance and the forbearance of the full Board and Executive of this Association."

Continued in Next Issue

#### LIVESTOCK SHIPMENTS

Livestock shipments for 1928 from points along the Lethbridge railway division show a healthy increase over the movement in 1927 and emphasize the satisfactory condition of the industry in the southern part of the Province. Figures compiled show that total shipments in 1928 reached 194,868 as compared with 174,954 for 1927. Increases are noted in the shipments of horses, sheep and hogs and while the movement of cattle has been lighter, the returns to the shippers show a gain over the previous year. This situation is reflected in a marked tendency on the part of many of the large ranchers to increase their holdings of cattle in view of the promising condition of the market for this class of stock.

A gain which is noted in the sheep shipments is accounted for by the distribution of large numbers of breeding ewes to farms in other parts of the Province. Wool production in this section for the past season is estimated at \$2,900,000, very satisfactory returns having been received by the growers.

#### CATTLE IN VERMILION DISTRICT

Some 200 families will be brought out this year to the Vermilion district under the Hudson's Bay and C.P.R. Land Settlement scheme, it is announced by E. H. Gamble, Canadian Manager, Hudson's Bay Company Overseas Settlement, Ltd. The first contingent is expected to arrive about March 15th and the remainder will be distributed over the following spring months.

## EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 8)

deeply rooted conservatism in many quarters in respect to educational problems. Time may be required to accustom those concerned to the novelties which the scheme contains—novelties, that is to say, in Alberta, though they are not novelties in the British Empire.

It seems very probable that when the tumult and the shouting die, there will be found a great majority of rural people convinced of the desirability of adopting, in its broad outlines, the scheme which is the result of several years' study of rural Alberta's educational needs.

## FINANCING SOCIAL LEGISLATION

There are at least some of the principles upon which the famous Lloyd George Budget of 1910 was based whose application in the financing of social legislation in Alberta, as well as other expenditures, may be worthy of consideration.

One of these principles is that in a civilization in which the gulf between the average citizen's condition and that of the comparative few who amass fortunes is constantly widening (as unquestionably it is today in Alberta's urban centres), the larger fortunes should bear, proportionately, a larger share of taxation than the property of the citizens of average condition.

The principle is, of course, not new. It was recognized by Adam Smith that a citizen's payments into the public treasury should be proportionate to his ability to bear taxation. Some arguments have been advanced against it chiefly in the financial press, which is the custodian of the interests of super-wealth.

What Lloyd George did was to apply the principle in a very definite way for the financing of social legislation including pensions. Although there may be criticism in detail, the broad basis of Lloyd George's pensions legislation is now accepted by all parties, and even today

when in Britain pensions have become in part contributory, state taxation which provides a share of the cost of social as well as other services is raised substantially in the old manner.

There is no Provincial income tax, and it is difficult to devise in this Province methods of taxation which are as completely equitable. But it may be worth while, nevertheless, to keep this principle in mind.

## THE KELLOGG PACT

(New Leader, London, Eng.)

It is interesting to find that a strong section of the Senate (of the United States) takes the view which we have expressed in these columns, that the Kellogg Pact, so far from outlawing war, actually legalises it in those spheres where it is likely to arise. Senator Moses endorsed the opinion of Prof. Borchard, of Yale, that the treaty, in fact and in law, is no more than a "solemn sanction for all wars mentioned in the exceptions and qualifications" of Great Britain, France, and the other powers.

## PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN CANADA

(Toronto Globe)

In Canada the public ownership of public utilities has worked out most satisfactorily. The Canadian National Railways have effected probably greater improvements than any other railway system in the world—and in spite of the millstone of mistakes inherited from private mismanagement.

As announced in our last issue *The U.F.A.* will be published weekly during the session of the Alberta Legislature. The advertising will be carried as usual in the issues published at the beginning and middle of each month.

## Principle of Proposed New School Act Approved by U.F.A. Convention

First Mill Rate for Province is Recommended, After Long Discussion, by 206 Votes to 161—Minister Answers Many Questions—The Matter of Taxation

By a vote of 206 to 161, the Annual Convention of the U.F.A., on January 16th, expressed hearty approval of the principle of the proposed changes in the rural school system of the Province as outlined by the Minister of Education, and stated further, that "in the raising of funds for educational purposes as proposed, we believe that the rural school areas of the entire Province should be grouped into one district, having a flat mill rate on assessed valuation and one salary schedule for teachers, based upon qualifications and experience."

The adoption of the resolution followed a lengthy debate, in which a greater number of delegates participated, pro and con, than in any other debate of the week. It served to bring to their feet many who had never spoken before, but who, upon a matter which touches so closely every rural community, had strong and definite opinions. Their natural diffidence and reluctance to face a large audience having been overcome, some of the best self-assertive delegates participated in consequence with greater freedom in the later debates of the Convention. This one keen debate on the second day thus had the effect of increasing greatly the value of all subsequent proceedings.

## Ladies Show Some Interest

The afternoon session, when most of the debating took place, was presided over

by H. Catchlaw, and Fernon Baker, Minister of Education, who was on the platform, answered a number of questions, and towards the close of the afternoon was invited to speak. The address he then gave covered the main principles of the bill as outlined in *The U.F.A.*, and in a pamphlet which has been distributed to school trustees, and it overcame the objections of many delegates and ensured the adoption of the resolution after considerable further discussion. Incidentally, most of the ladies in the Convention, for whom a reception at Government House had been planned, during the afternoon, showed their intense interest in the question and their determination to allow nothing to interfere with their duty to their Locals in this matter, by remaining in the Convention hall until the adjournment at 4 p.m. Some of the most effective

speeches were made by these delegates.

H. W. Leonard, who strongly supported the bill, congratulated the Minister on his courage in taking a step which all who had the best interests of education at heart would, he thought, after full consideration, recognize as a step forward.

Jon Porter, of Conrich, who came from a well-established school district organized 26 years ago, thought it would be unfair to sweep away the older districts which were in similar case.

Answering a question, Mr. Baker said that he proposed, in his bill, to provide for one taxing area for the rural schools for the whole Province. Consolidated, town or village schools would not be included under the provisions of the bill.

## Efficiency Prizes Consideration

"I have been terribly disappointed that the only question raised here today is the question of taxation," said Mrs. R. Clarke Fraser. "That is important, but efficiency is more important. More money is spent in this Province in foolishness than would educate all the children and carry out this scheme ten times over, if we went after it sensibly. I am ready to admit that we have the best course of study in Canada. I have had every

opportunity of testing it. But I do not think that the school, organized as we have it, is meeting the interests of the people today. We are simply educating our people to go to the city. We cannot keep our young people in the rural schools where we ought to have them. What is the use of educating one little district in Alberta and letting many others go without education? We should have equal rights for every child in this Province. Under this system there will be no hardship to any district."

Mrs. Fraser went on to say that a scheme was badly needed whereby teachers could be promoted naturally. "What inducement is there today," she asked, "for any teacher in the rural districts to stay in the profession? A teacher just out of Normal can demand the same salary as the one with ten or twelve years' experience. Some men said that the teachers have not been selected properly. But could it be otherwise under the present system? Some districts, in order to get rid of a teacher, will give her a good recommendation. Under the new scheme there will be competent people to make the selection. The public school teacher goes today into the rural district feeling almost inspired. She intends to do marvellous work. But when she goes out, whom has she to turn to? The inspector cannot come often enough, and she trustees don't know. What is the result? That girl, after trying for a short time, simply drops out. Now, if she has supervision instead of inspection, the supervisor will know where she stands, what her weakness is, and she will have some person to turn to in times of difficulty." It was sure to be able to take a child into the city, where they could learn art and music and domestic science and manual training, but "in spite of that I would not change my rural school, if it were properly conducted."

On motion from the floor, Mr. Baker was called on and explained the principles of his proposed bill in detail.

#### Assets Undisturbed

Mr. Egger: "In the case of a rural school district having paid all its indebtedness and having assets, that asset will not be disturbed?"

Mr. Baker: "Quite right. Assets and liabilities rest right where they are now."

Mr. Baker explained that it was intended that the superintendent should be appointed by the Government, as the inspector is now, and paid by the Government as at present. He thought the two superintendents should be appointed in the same way and paid out of Government grants accruing to the general teacher fund.

#### Continuation for Local People

Mr. Baker said he believed the divisional board under the new scheme would be just as anxious to satisfy local people as to their teacher, as these people were themselves; the superintendent could not afford to antagonize his own school districts. If the local district or the teacher did not agree with the recommendation proposed by the superintendent, representations should be made to the educational board, which upon a definite date would fix the teachers' slate for the coming term. If the local people had a teacher they would like to keep, there seemed no reason why they would not be able to do so.

#### Increase of 1 Mill

Asked by a delegate who said it now cost approximately \$1600 for a one-room school, how much the cost would be increased under the new scheme, Mr.

Baker said he did not think the average would be higher than that. A lot has been said about the taxes being doubled and trebled, and the Province "just sunk." Practically the only increase in cost, in fact, would be for the added supervision. Salary and expenses for 40 superintendents would average about \$2,000—a total of \$80,000. If certain schools now running eight months or less ran full time, there would be further cost. Based on the average salary now paid for rural teachers, the cost all told was estimated at \$200,000 more than now, or less than three-fourths of a mill.

Local school boards would have the same responsibility to control as now of all matters except appointment and salaries of teachers.

As to getting rid of unsatisfactory teachers, the Minister thought that if there were anything like unanimity, this could be done as easily under the new as under the present conditions.

The salary schedule in each division would be set by the general board, on the basis of academic attainment, efficiency and experience, and the cheque would go out from the office of the general board each month. The salary a teacher received would depend not on the place where the teacher was, but on her place on the schedule.

If a plebiscite should be found wise and necessary before the new scheme was made effective, Mr. Baker said he would not object, but "a plebiscite when there is not an election is a costly matter; and a plebiscite when there is an election is a nuisance."

The divisional board, he thought, should be remunerated on a basis of per diem allowance and mileage.

The Minister pointed out that the tendency of the new scheme would be to lessen the freedom of the teacher in moving from year to year, while in districts so heavily burdened today to carry on 7 or 8 months, where there was no money to provide salaries or good buildings or equipment, it would be possible to make positions more attractive to teachers under the new scheme.

Superintendents would be under the direction of the superintendent, who would be jointly responsible to the divisional board and the Department, authority resting with the Minister. It would be necessary to send an inspector from outside to investigate complaints.

#### High School Tuition

Mr. Baker said the local district would be relieved of any tuition fee for high schools. Pupils who naturally should attend town or village schools would receive authorization from the superintendent. A fee would be paid out of the general fund based on the cost of the service given.

Mr. Ewing thought the local school board should have some control, while Mr. Bain remarked that a system whereby the teachers could be graded was highly desirable. More service was being demanded, and it had got to be paid for. Mr. Wingate opposed the resolution.

During the discussion, an amendment to delete the second clause in the resolution, calling for a flat mill rate for the entire Province, was lost and the main motion carried, as follows:

Resolved, that we heartily approve the principle of the proposed changes in the Rural School System of this Province as outlined by the Minister of Education and

Further, that in the raising of the funds for educational purposes as

proposed, we believe that the Rural School areas of the entire Province should be grouped into one district, having a flat mill rate on assessed valuation and one salary schedule for teachers, based upon qualifications and experience.

Various amendments in addition to the one voted on had been offered, but either failed to be seconded, or were ruled out of order.

#### THRESHING RETURNS

The Minister of Agriculture desires to draw the attention of threshermen throughout the Province to the conditions under which threshing permits are issued by the Department. Each registered machine owner is sent a license for the season, accompanied by a blank form on which he is required to make a return to the Department of Agriculture showing the number of acres and the number of bushels threshed during the season.

Up to the present time a considerable number of threshermen have not complied with this regulation and it is pointed out that complete returns of this kind provide the only basis on which a definite statement can be issued showing the total and average yield of the various grains produced each year in the Province. In the absence of this definite information the Department is in the position of having to accept estimated figures compiled in other ways. For this reason it has been found necessary to accept the estimated figures for the present year's grain yields compiled and issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. An appeal, therefore, is made to threshermen and farmers throughout the Province to co-operate with the Department in making available the fullest possible information which will be of assistance in this connection.

#### The Bell Telephone Bill

(Toronto Star)

The bill to increase Bell Telephone capital is again to come before Parliament. The main issue with regard to that measure is the same which arose when an increase in capitalization was sought by the Consumers' Gas Company: Are shareholders to cut a "melon" at the expense of customers?

The authorized share capital of the Bell Telephone Company is at present \$75,000,000, with something under \$10,000,000 still to be issued. The company asks that this capital be increased to \$150,000,000. On the par value of the additional capitalization the company's customers, old and new, will have to furnish an 8 per cent. dividend.

That being the case, a number of questions may reasonably be asked: Is the proposed additional capitalization excessive? Is it to be secured in the cheapest market? Would it be cheaper to provide part of the new capital by increasing the present bond issue of \$40,000,000 instead of issuing new stock?

Premier Ferguson protested Toronto in the Consumers' Gas Company case by providing that new stock shall be sold in the open market instead of being issued to existing shareholders as a "melon." The public must have the same assurance from Ottawa with regard to Bell Telephone stock. If the bill, as reintroduced this year, does not protect Bell Telephone customers against a melon-cutting for Bell Telephone shareholders, Parliament should amend it.